

Art Unit: 1711

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 25, 2010 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Newly submitted claim 12 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are drawn to a washing machine, and Claim 12 is drawn to a method of controlling a washing machine. The washing machine of Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 can be used to practice another and materially different process than required by the method of Claim 12. For example, the washing machine can be used in methods whereby the agitating unit is used to agitate clothing, laundry is washed using non-polar solvents, or laundry undergoes a presoak cycle in the laundry tub.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 12 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose, or render obvious, a washing machine with a controller configured such that if before the spin-drying rotation the ion eluting portion was controlled so as not to supply metal ions to the laundry tub, the control unit performs a first balance correction rinsing in which the control unit controls the water supply unit and the ion eluting portion to supply water containing no metal ions to the laundry tub and controls the agitating unit to perform agitation, and if before the spin-drying rotation the ion eluting portion was controlled so as to supply metal ions to the laundry tub, the control unit performs a second balance correction rinsing in which the control unit controls the water supply unit and the ion eluting portion to supply water containing metal ions to the laundry tub and controls the agitating unit to perform agitation.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID CORMIER whose telephone number is (571) 270-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DGC/

David Cormier

08/12/2010

/Michael Kornakov/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1714